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Applicant: Griffith-Cima, *et al* Examiner: D. Naff
Serial No.: 09/008,945 Art Unit: 1651
Filing Date: January 20, 1998 Attorney Docket: 0492611-0315
(MIT6196)
Title: TISSUE FORMATION BY INJECTING A CELL-POLYMER
SOLUTION THAT GELS IN VIVO

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**Amendment**

Please add the following new claims:

44. A method for introducing cells into an animal, comprising:
forming a cell-polymeric composition by mixing dissociated cells with a solution of a biodegradable, biocompatible natural or synthetic organic polymer;
introducing said cell-polymeric composition into the animal; and
hardening the polymer into a three-dimensional open-lattice structure which entraps water molecules to form a hydrogel construct in which the dissociated cells are uniformly distributed,
wherein the step of hardening is completed after introduction of said cell-polymeric composition into the animal.
45. The method of claim 44, wherein the natural or synthetic organic polymer is selected from the group consisting of alginate, polyphosphazines, polyethylene oxide-propylene glycol block copolymers, poly(acrylic acids), poly(methacrylic acids), copolymers of acrylic acid and methacrylic acid, poly(vinyl acetate), and sulfonated polymers.
46. The method of claim 44, wherein the step of hardening is initiated ^{to partially} before the step of introducing.
47. The method of claim 44 or 46, wherein hardening comprises cross-linking the polymer with multivalent ions.

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DATE: March 23, 2001

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